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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

September 21, 1950

Honorable Walter L. Pforzheimer
CIA
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Walter:

I appreciate your recent communication commenting upon my position in voting against the McCarran Bill in the Senate and I am very grateful for your encouraging expressions. I know that my vote was not popular.

I co-sponsored and voted for the Kilgore bill, S. 4031, which contained the recommendations of the President to strengthen the laws against sabotage and espionage and also provided for the internment of saboteurs, dangerous Communists and 5th Columnists in the event of war, invasion or grave national security. I think the Government needs these safeguards at the present time. I could not, however, go along with the registration part as presently written because I think it is unworkable and would defeat the purpose of better security. This latter opinion is based upon the statements and belief of J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI.

Many sections of the bill undoubtedly violate the individual and Constitutional liberties of innocent citizens and we cannot win this present conflict with Communism by ourselves adopting totalitarian methods.

I filed on my own a separate bill (S. 4163- a copy of which is enclosed), which includes all the above provisions and goes further to declare an automatic internal security emergency when our Armed Forces are fighting for the United Nations, as they now are. Additionally, in such situations, all our law applicable to war-time treason, sabotage and espionage would come immediately into effect. I hope you will read my Anti-Communist bill and other enclosures. It is my firm conviction that a great majority of those whom I represent will eventually approve of my action once the real, underlying issues are understood by all.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosures:

S. 4163

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